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on either hand, urge upon her a theocracy or a commune. But many things are still to be done before honest Republicans cease to rail and honest Carlists to hope.

It is to be regretted that the book adheres so closely to the traditional lines of old-fashioned political history as to leave no room for an adequate account of the modification that is taking place in Spanish customs and institutions. The adjustment of Spanish life to modern ideas and methods—an adjustment which, though slow in progress, is coming to demonstrate in a broad and noble sense the truth of Louis XIV's triumphant cry, "The Pyrenees no longer exist"—surely offers more interest and instruction than the most accurate recital of political and military complications. This movement, however, still awaits an impartial recorder.

WILLIAM R. SHEPHERD.

The Cambridge Modern History. Edited by A. W. WARD, G. W. PROTHERO and STANLEY LEATHES. Volume V: *The Age of Louis XIV.* Volume X: *The Restoration.* New York, the Macmillan Company, 1907, 1908.—xxxii, 971; xxviii, 936 pp.

The Cambridge Modern History is both a notable achievement and a continual disappointment. In bulk it will be surpassed by but three or four of the great works of reference in the English language. Its list of contributors commands instant respect. It has already become an "authority." Yet the book seems to be written for no one in particular. The scholar misses that constant contact with the sources by way of foot-notes, which makes even a mediocre narrative worth his reading. The general reader will not find in its long and not always luminous text a royal road to history. Perhaps most appreciative, under the circumstances, will be the man who buys but never reads, the purchaser of "sets," to whose well-stocked library the great modern history will be an indispensable addition. He will have that sense of intellectual well-being which comes from the presence of authority. He can feel safe within the reach of knowledge—whatever that may be—as the mediæval monk must have felt with his Aristotle or Aquinas. But it is to be hoped that the history was not written for him.

It is now too late, however, to quarrel with the plan of the book; we must confine ourselves to the criticism of its execution. Even this must be very incomplete. There are no less than twenty-four chapters in each volume, mostly by different hands. To criticise in detail would be to prepare a catalogue at once imperfect and misleading.

The reviewer, therefore, himself facing the limitations of space, cannot but be in a sympathetic frame of mind as he turns over these pages and realizes that, in spite of the great bulk of the work, there has not been room enough to tell the story. The limits allowed, generous as they seem, are frequently so inadequate as to lead to a merciless crowding of fact upon fact, a bewildering display of phenomena too slightly explained. It may be that this is the most significant thing in the book. It shows better than has ever been done before the immense range of the subject which the editors have attempted to cover. Vast as their enterprise is, it fails to offer more than a mere introduction to a thousand different things, each worthy of exhaustive treatment. There are few sections where one does not feel the sense of incompleteness. Sometimes this is accentuated by a style which touches things too lightly—that most irritating imitation of the Gibbonesque, saying things by inference, as though the writer feared that the reader might take offence if he ventured to tell him anything simply and directly. At other times the facts are too obviously thrown at the reader's head. The only way to compress the infinite variety of modern society into any set of books is to eliminate the unimportant and to tell the rest in a plain straightforward way. There are of course sections in these two volumes which do not sin against either of these two principles. But the erudite chapters cause the general reader needless suffering and are not always satisfactory to the scholar. Yet, as I have said, they tend to emphasize what is after all of almost as much importance as the facts which they contain, the well-nigh limitless scope of modern history when viewed not merely as political but as social evolution.

It is interesting to see how both editors and contributors have attempted to meet this wider view. The editorial idea comes out most clearly in the plan of the tenth volume. After twenty chapters of political history, a chapter on German and one on English literature, the economic achievements of the period are hurriedly covered in a twenty-third chapter, followed by a last short one upon the British economists. Such an incidental appendix to the main narrative is not the place for the development of the industrial revolution—the central fact of more than half of the story that precedes it. The English historians are slowly broadening out, but the process has hardly more than begun. How much more skilfully than his collaborators a historian like Émile Bourgeois, trained in the wider survey, has treated the France of this period. He rightly feels that his narrative fails unless it reaches the roots of things. There are relatively few figures on his

canvas, yet it carries the conviction of adequacy, because of the justness of his perspective. There is no blur of courtly faces in the foreground, as in the chapter preceding. A comparison of these two chapters shows that democracy by no means robs history of its charm.

Among so many articles by the most competent men obtainable, it is difficult to choose for comment. But most valuable, perhaps, in the fifth volume is the full treatment of central and eastern Europe. Professor Bury, who has turned from his studies in Byzantine history not toward western Europe but up the Dnieper to Kief and Muscovy, introduces the history of Russia. R. Nisbet Bain, certainly the best qualified English scholar, describes the age of Peter the Great. Dr. A. W. Ward himself takes up the settlement after Utrecht, and the development of Prussia. There is little new in the treatment of France; compared with the volume on Louis XIV just published by Lavissee, it is but a hurried sketch. England and the Stuarts receive slightly more detailed treatment. One cannot altogether pass judgment upon the general makeup of this volume, however, until the appearance of the next in the series, which is announced as *The Eighteenth Century*. The important chapters on science which this volume contains will then find their logical development in the changed intellectual atmosphere. The age of Louis XIV to its very close was linked to the seventeenth century. Seignobos has some justification in dating modern times from his death.

In the tenth volume the place of honor is given to diplomatic history, which has been placed in the competent hands of W. Alison Phillips, to whom also falls the treatment of Greece and Egypt. The chapter on the "Ideologues" by Lady Blennerhasset lacks breadth of view. She also contributes the chapter on the papacy. Professor Pollard's "Germanic Confederation" is slightly disappointing—coming from him. The Spanish colonies and South America receive somewhat full notice. The history of Russia and Poland is compactly told by Professor Askenazy. Apart from the sections already referred to, we have to commend the attempt to include the history of national literatures in the general survey. But the chapters in which this is done bring out rather forcibly the defects of the book. Apart from their hurried pace they suffer from a lack of coördination with the social forces which the national writers interpreted. To place the chapter containing Shelley and Byron before that which described the England against which they rebelled is to rob their short biographies of half their meaning. Some day we may have a book in which these things will be adequately correlated.

J. T. SHOTWELL.